

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: "CONVERGENCE" DEBUT IS AN EXPLORATION OF A HUNDRED YEARS OF BLACK AND JEWISH MUSIC

"[Anthony Russell] wove in and out of Eastern European *chazzanut* and old African American spirituals, which had an almost shamanistic shape-shifting affect on the audience."—The Times of Israel

"These aren't 'Glee'-style mash-ups, but are astutely arranged to explore the exile, spirituality, hope and redemption in both traditions—with Carpathian folk flute, of course."—Jewniverse

(Boston, MA) — Five years ago Anthony Russell, a black former opera singer-turned Yiddish vocalist, set out to create a new musical idiom by combining two distinct older ones: African American spirituals and the music of Jewish Eastern Europe.

In collaboration with acclaimed klezmer consort Veretski Pass (Joshua Horowitz, Cookie Segelstein and Stuart Brotman), Russell has created a repertoire of songs authentically inhabiting the sounds of two traditions resulting in *Convergence*, Russell's debut solo EP.

"I was inspired by the music of these two diasporas in time and space—the Black and the Jewish." Russell said, "but I was also inspired by the possibilities of that history as a point of departure, the possibilities of telling stories about modern, ongoing struggle and transcendence." This is especially evident on "Side B" of the EP: the inequalities of "Stranger", the mass incarceration in "Rosie" and the protest-like call to action in "Open".

Drawing from a diverse collection of folk songs, anthems, lullabies, art and religious music, Anthony Russell and Veretski Pass mobilize an array of historic genres in their creation of a multi-diasporic sound: early blues, Hungarian and Bessarabian klezmer, "old time" fiddle, synagogue tunes, contemporary classical and—in a special guest appearance by seven-time Grammy-nominated Latin percussionist John Santos—Cuban *guaguancò*.

CONVERGENCE Track List

Side A

1. Water - (Hebrew/English)
2. Train - (English/Yiddish)
3. Horses - (Yiddish/English)
4. Lift - (English/Yiddish)

Side B

5. Stranger - (Yiddish/English)
6. Rosie - (English)
7. Open - (English)
8. Zion (Adoration of the Ancestral Shrine) - (English/Hebrew)

For more information about *Convergence*, interview requests or promo copies of the EP, please email convergencealbum@gmail.com or call (415) 351-9116.